

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 and 24 through 42 are presented for examination in the present application upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claims 23 and 43 through 45 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The specification has been amended to include the headings required by MPEP 608.01(a). The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to include the headings required by MPEP 608.01(b).

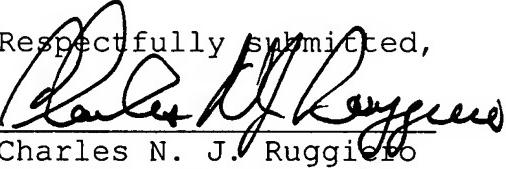
The claims have been amended to conform to U.S. practice. Specifically, claims 1 through 22 and 24 through 42 have been amended to remove reference numerals, to remove multiple dependencies, to provide proper verb tense, to correct translation errors, and to provide proper antecedent basis for all claim elements. Thus, these claim amendments should not affect the scope of equivalents to which these claims are entitled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

October 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


Charles N. J. Ruggiero

Reg. No. 28,468

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10th floor

Stamford, CT 06901-2682

Tel: (203) 327-4500